

## SUMMARY OF THE "SUSTAINABLE SALMON FISHERIES POLICY FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA"

The policy consists of four sections:

- (a) This first section is similar to a problem statement, or rationale, for the policy. It recognizes that Alaska's salmon fisheries are well-managed, however threats to sustainable management do exist, and they justify development of an explicit statewide umbrella policy to help guide fishery management plans and programs.
- (b) Principles and Criteria - This section of the policy articulates five fundamental principles for sustainable salmon management, and the criteria that apply these principles to real issues
  - Wild salmon populations and their habitats must be protected to maintain resource productivity. Fisheries must be managed to allow escapements within ranges necessary to
  - conserve and sustain potential salmon production and maintain normal ecosystem functioning. Effective salmon management systems must be established and applied to
  - regulate human activities that affect salmon. Public support and involvement for sustained use and protection of salmon resources must be maintained.
  - 
  - In the face of uncertainty, salmon stocks, fisheries, artificial propagation and essential habitats must be managed conservatively.
- (c) Implementation - This section of the policy describes procedures by which the principles and criteria are applied to actual management plans. It also describes the sequence of events by which stock concerns are identified and addressed by the department and the board. Key implementation steps are:
  - At Board of Fisheries regulatory meetings the department provides reports on the status of stocks, fisheries and associated habitats. The reports include a description of the extent management of the stocks and fisheries conforms to the principles and criteria in (b). Also, the reports identify any stock and habitat concerns, and options for addressing these concerns.
  - In response to the status reports the board reviews all relevant stock or fishery management plans, or considers developing a management plan if one does not already exist. The policy identifies key ingredients of a management plan including goals and measurable and implementable objectives.
  - If the department and board identify a stock of concern the board amends or develops a management plan to address the concern.
  - As part of the management plan for a stock of concern the board and department collaborate in the development and periodic review of an action plan. The policy identifies key ingredients of an action plan, including necessary management actions, measures needed to restore and protect habitat, and a research plan.
- (d) Terms and Definitions - This section of the policy defines key terms used in the policy.